

her pharmacy accepted that card and if her drugs were considered preferred under that card. If that is not difficult enough, then that senior would have to compare that card to all the other cards in her area, for example, the one that had 12 with the neighboring zip code that had zero.

Unfortunately, the story gets worse for our seniors. After spending the time, energy, and brain power to choose the best card, seniors are not even guaranteed that the companies will continue to maintain the cost that is on that Web site or access to those particular drugs that the seniors have looked for and they need. The company is under no obligation to maintain its advertised prices or even carry the drugs that they need. If they start losing too much money on a particular drug, they can just cease to offer that coverage during the year. And while all these private companies get escape clauses, Medicare beneficiaries are forced to stay with each card for at least a year.

In the end I am afraid we will learn the hard way that this discount drug card is just as bad a deal as the Medicare drug bill that created it.

THE WAR AGAINST THE TERRORISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have been watching television like all of my colleagues over the past few days and we are all very disappointed and disgruntled, upset, whatever one wants to call it, about the pictures that we have seen of prisoners in Iraq, and it is really tragic that those sorts of things happen in war. But we have had wars in the past where these things have happened. We had My Lai in Vietnam. We even had a problem in the Revolutionary War where other generals were calling for the resignation of George Washington because they had not won any victories because they had made so many mistakes. And of course they have Valley Forge. He crossed the Delaware, attacked the Hessians at Trenton, and he became a big hero, and we all know that he became the father of our country because of the successes of the Revolutionary War.

There are tragedies in all wars, but what we must not lose sight of is we are in a world war against terrorists. Over 3,000 Americans lost their lives in the World Trade Center. We saw in Fallujah Americans being burned and dragged through the streets and hung up by terrorists. Just these last couple of days we saw an American, an innocent American civilian, who was just working over there, having his head cut off, and they said it was because of the pictures. The terrorists said it was because of the pictures that were shown about what happened in the

prisons in Iraq. The fact of the matter is they have been perpetrating these terrorist acts on and on and on because they want to defeat us and our way of life. And we must not let that happen.

And then I hear my colleagues criticizing the President and the Secretary of Defense over and over and over again saying, oh, my gosh, they are making mistakes; they should be doing this and that and the other thing. The fact of the matter is we do not need 535 would-be commander in chiefs. And that is what we see around here, people second-guessing everything that is going on.

As a matter of fact, we are winning the war in Iraq. We are winning the war in Afghanistan. The terrorists are on the defensive. And we must not send any signals to them whatsoever that they have a chance to win this sort of thing. And that is what I am afraid many of my colleagues are doing.

President Bush is doing a very good job. Donald Rumsfeld, as Secretary of Defense, is doing an outstanding job. And we need to stand with them and with our troops in the field and not be casting aspersions on every single thing that goes wrong over there. In war mistakes are made, and we are going to see more mistakes in this war. But we are winning it and we are going to win it as long as we have people like President Bush and Don Rumsfeld at the helm. And I hope my colleagues will think about that before they start shooting off their mouths in the future.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, my disagreement with Secretary Rumsfeld began 2 years ago, 1½ years ago, when it was clear when Members of this Congress, in this House, and both parties were calling on the President and the Secretary of Defense to provide body armor for our soldiers, many of whom did not have body armor, with demands that they put armor on the underbellies and the doors of Humvees; still are not fully done and Americans have died because of it. That is the first major criticism of the Secretary of Defense and the President, something that they should have stopped what they were doing to take care of the safety of our men and women in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, last week enrollment began for the President's prescription drug discount card. They became available through the Medicare bill passed last year. What we could have done in this body is simply to have given a card like this, a Medicare card to every senior, and said this card will get them a significant 50, 60, 70 percent discount in their prescription drugs because we could have set our system up the way Canada does. The Secretary of the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services,

the director, could have negotiated directly with the drug companies on behalf of 40 million Medicare beneficiaries, got a discount similar to what they have in every nation in the world, given this discount card to every senior, and they could have gotten a discount the way the Canadians get and the French get and the Germans and the Israelis and the Japanese, a 50, 60, 70 percent discount. Instead, the President wanted to privatize Medicare. He wanted to privatize these prescription drug cards, these discounts cards.

So what do we have? Beginning last week in my State of Ohio, there will be 50 cards available. I am not making this up. They need to select one of these 50 cards if they are a senior. This card may have a discount for Fosamax. This card may have a discount for Zoloft. This card may have a discount for Vioxx. This card may have a discount for something else. Maybe a 22 percent discount here, a 12 percent discount here. They have got to figure that out as a senior. They have got to look at all 50 of these cards and figure out where it makes the most sense to get a discount and which card makes the most sense for them. After they take one of these cards, they will be paying \$30 and have this card for the year. The problem is the card seller, several of whom are big contributors to the President, and they are going to make a lot of money, these cards, but the prescription drug card seller, after they have chosen the card, can change the discount and can change the drug formulary in the drugs which are covered.

One might wonder why the President and why my friends on the other side of the aisle, instead of choosing one card and getting a 50 or 60 percent discount, would make seniors look at 50 cards and try to figure out the best 10 or 15 percent discount that they are going to get. One might wonder why would the President, why would the Republican leadership choose to do that. It has got a whole lot to do with the way this Congress operates. The word on the street is the drug industry is going to give \$100 million to the President's reelection campaign. The drug industry and the insurance industry have already contributed millions of dollars to the Republican leadership, to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and Republican leadership, millions of dollars to President Bush. In fact, a nonpartisan study said that this bill will mean \$150 billion more in subsidies to the drug industry, in additional profits to the drug industry, and a \$46 billion direct subsidy to the insurance industry, \$46 billion coming out of taxpayers' pockets, going directly to the insurance industry, \$46 billion.

We could take that \$46 billion and divide it among the 39 million Medicare beneficiaries and they would each get a \$1,100 drug benefit just from that alone. Instead, Republican leadership gives us

these cards and gives the insurance industry a \$46 billion subsidiary. And do my colleagues know what? While the drug benefit program does not go into effect until 2006, the insurance industry, the HMOs, already got their payment on March 1, their first payment.

Mr. Speaker, we could have done this right and done a regular prescription drug program through Medicare with a good discount. Instead, the President and the Republican leadership have again done the bidding of the drug industry, again have done the bidding of the insurance industry, again have done the bidding of these companies that make these discount cards.

It is outrageous, Mr. Speaker, that instead of doing Medicare right and preserving the Medicare that we know and that this country likes and that seniors have benefited from, we have privatized this system. We have confused seniors, and we have let the drug industry and the insurance industry write this legislation, benefit from that legislation, and cash in on this legislation.

WE MUST SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, in response, I found a different case from my constituents. The first woman who signed up for one of the drug cards, Mr. Speaker, was 85. She had a monthly cost of \$409, and after the card was given and she was able to navigate her way through it, her cost was \$13.61. Mr. Speaker, that hardly sounds like the drug industry is going to get a payoff.

Mr. Speaker, I, like many, am profoundly disappointed in the photos and the actions of a handful of our soldiers, but I do not for one moment mistake the actions of a few to be representative of the many.

On the floor of this House, Mr. Speaker, I have heard my colleagues from the other side of the aisle say that the war being fought in Iraq cannot be won and is, in fact, "unwinnable." And yet with straight faces these same colleagues say that they support our troops.

They have short memories, Mr. Speaker. They say they support our troops, and yet some of them earnestly voted against providing our troops with the very resources they need in the field, fighting not only for our liberty but for the freedoms of others.

Mr. Speaker, the words and actions of these individuals do not indicate support for our troops, and I find it profoundly disappointing when some show such blatant disregard, dishonor, and disrespect for our troops. Some of my colleagues have made such comments without concern for the impact that it has on the morale of our troops who are currently fighting in Iraq as well as those who are poised to go to Iraq.

Is this Election Year rhetoric and the partisan banter part of the Democrats' winnable strategy in Iraq? The bottom line is that some Members of the other party have become representative for retreat and appeasement. Mr. Speaker, appeasement and retreat has not worked in the past and will not work in the future with the terrorists. Mr. Speaker, we must win this war on terror. The stakes are too great for the future of humanity.

I went to Iraq late last year and personally visited with our soldiers. The young men in this picture and the young women that I met, those are the soldiers in Iraq who are an all-volunteer force who are fighting so that our children and grandchildren do not have to live in a world where there is daily fear of terrorism. These men and women deserve the thanks of a grateful Nation and a grateful world. They deserve to have our unwavering support for their unwavering belief in liberty and their understanding of freedom.

Since the American people will not hear these stories on the evening news, Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to share true stories of astonishing bravery, courage, compassion, valor, and steel nerve. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about our soldiers and what they have done for America, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the entire world.

The soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division have been working to make Iraq secure but also have been putting time and effort into helping towns and villages with their "Operation Helping Hands" program. With "Operation Helping Hands," our soldiers donate their own money to help provide families with food and health care necessities. Brigade Commander Colonel Ben Hodges came up with the idea of helping the poor families in the area. They have collected several thousand dollars, which goes a long way toward helping many Iraqi families.

Mr. Speaker, our troops are compassionate. They are helping Iraqi families in a way that they have never been helped before. Soldiers are often out in Iraq communities to provide medical care and humanitarian assistance. A small, impoverished village about 10 miles from Baghdad was recently paid a visit by personnel from the Medical Civic Action Program. This program sends doctors and medics out to provide free medical care on a regular basis. Because of conditions under Saddam Hussein, soldiers are treating diseases we rarely see here at home such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, and polio.

Mr. Speaker, we should also be proud of our troops for fighting for women's rights. For the first time in history, women in Mosul, Iraq were able to join the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day. The day recognizes coordinated efforts of women everywhere for equal rights and political and economic equality.

The People's Assembly Building was rededicated as the Center for Iraqi Women. The center will serve as a

meeting place for all women of Iraq where they can share ideas, offer training, coordinate communications, and build a safer homeland.

And in Mosul, Iraqi police say they are grateful to the soldiers from the U.S. Army's 503rd Military Police Battalion for their assistance in rebuilding police stations. Coalition forces helped to renovate several police stations and enabled the Iraqi police officers to protect their fellow citizens. There are more than 1,600 policemen who have trained from scratch in an 8-week training program.

Mr. Speaker, these are the stories of our young men and women in Iraq. These are the stories of the people who are fighting for freedom and fighting to rebuild a country. Mr. Speaker, the war on terror must be won.

The new Iraqi Army is growing. In early March, more than 1,000 recruits of the 4th Battalion graduated from the nine-week basic training program.

These are our soldiers' stories. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands more. I am proud of our soldiers and want to say "thank you." These are not the stories that you will hear on the news, or in the newspapers—nor will you hear them during election year rhetoric.

A U.S. soldier evacuated an Iraqi woman, Farha Abed Saad for medical treatment after she had been harmed by the thugs who wish to rob Iraqis of their right to freedom. "Thank God, you have come here to Iraq and make us free," said Ms. Saad, kissing a soldier's hands. "When I see you, I see my own sons! Thank you, thank you."

It is a sad day, Mr. Speaker, when some in this city who routinely ignore the great accomplishments of our soldiers only to politicize the war at their expense.

We will win this war on terror, Mr. Speaker, there is no other option. This IS a winnable war—and we must stand behind our policy and our troops with a firm resolve.

A world controlled by terrorists is not acceptable. If the United States of America cannot defeat terrorism, who in the world can? We will continue to fight against Al-Qaeda and Al-Qaeda affiliated groups—like the one who viciously beheaded 26-year-old Nick Berg. Nick Berg was a civilian who voluntarily went to Iraq to help rebuild Iraqi communication antennas. And my prayers are with his family.

After 9-11, Mr. Speaker, America was called to a new destiny. Our destiny is to defeat terrorism and tyranny. Amid the towers of American tragedy, Mr. Speaker, emerged our soldiers as towers of American strength.

And they shall have my eternal gratitude.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4275, PERMANENT EXTENSION OF 10-PERCENT INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE BRACKET

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-483) on the resolution (H. Res. 637) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4275) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to permanently extend the 10-percent individual